



News Release

Dixie National Forest

For Immediate Release
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FORSYTH RIDGE WILDLAND FIRE USE (WFU) BURNS IN PINE VALLEY WILDERNESS AREA

PINE VALLEY, Utah – On August 18, 2008, a lightning strike ignited the Forsyth Ridge Fire. The fire is currently about 1 acre. Fire managers made the decision to manage this fire as Wildland Fire Use (WFU). This means that firefighters will actively manage and monitor the fire within an identified boundary and will not suppress the fire within this boundary. WFU is a tool that forest managers may use when naturally occurring fire happens and can produce positive benefits to forest health.

The Forsyth Ridge Fire was discovered in August 19, 2008. It is burning east of the Forsyth Trail in the Pine Valley Wilderness area and about 2.5 miles from Pine Valley Town. No structures or resources outside of the wilderness are currently under threat. The fire is creeping and smoldering in the understory of spruce/fir and aspen forest. It is located in the steep cliffs and ridge tops of the Pine Valley Wilderness area. If hot, dry, and windy weather conditions persist, the fire may become more active. Fire managers will monitor the fire daily during the burning period to ensure that it continues to burn in a manner that will benefit the resources. If the fire becomes more active, the fire could grow substantially. Currently, there is very little smoke coming from the fire; and there are no closures in place.

Bevan Killpack, Pine Valley District Ranger for the Dixie National Forest, commented, “While we intend to monitor this fire daily, natural fire in the wilderness can produce great resource benefits. This mountain is lacking in natural fuel breaks. I hope that this WFU will burn some small holes in the vegetation so that if we do experience a large fire in the future we have some places where the fire will be slowed down naturally.”

If the fire grows or becomes more active, we will provide additional updates.
Information on fires in Utah can be found at www.utahfireinfo.gov.

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